



U. S. Army War College
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA



Defense Strategy Course

LTC Mark Fetter

Director, Defense Strategy Course



Purpose of the DSC



- To improve student understanding about the role of the Department of Defense in the development of national security strategy.
- The focus of the course is the role DOD plays in the development of national security strategy within a complex and changing international environment.
- Course material addresses national security policy making processes and the relationship of the national elements of power to defense strategy.



Course Overview



- **The USAWC has offered the DSC to U.S. Active and Reserve Component officers since 1984.**
- **Officers enrolling in the DSC must:**
 - **Have credit for CGSC/equivalent schooling (MEL-4)**
 - **Not be enrolled in or have completed a Senior Service College Program (MEL-1)**



Course Overview (cont.)



- **Six month online course offered twice per year with 100 students per course.**
 - 50 Active Officers
 - 25 USAR Officers
 - 25 ARNG Officers
- **Seminar grouped**
- **Individual effort**
- **Migrated from paper based in June 2003 to computer based interaction**



Course Organization



Twenty eight lessons / five sections

Lesson 1 - Introduction / System configuration

Lessons 2 thru 5 - Strategic and Military Theory

Lessons 6 thru 12 - Foundations in International Relations and Political Science

Lessons 13 thru 21 - Defense in the United States

Lessons 22 thru 28 - Strategy at the Combatant Command Level



Student Evaluation



- **Lesson forums**
- **Diagnostic quizzes**
- **Multiple choice exam**
- **Two written requirements**



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Organization of the College





Course Faculty/Administration

- **One USAR LTC (USAWC Graduate) evaluator = 16 hours per month, two weeks per year.**
- **Two part time GS-5 employees manage course material mailouts, student correspondence and communications with proponents regarding student issues.**
- **One LTC Director: course author, manage copyrights, communicate with students by phone and email,**



Course Design Software



- 1. Dream Weaver Suite (Flash, Fireworks, create CFM and HTM files)**
- 2. Sound Forge (creates audio files)**
- 3. Adobe Acrobat Standard (create PDF's)**
- 4. Toolbook (creates DHTML)**
- 5. Graphics packages (Corel, Photoshop)**



Potential To Experiment



- **New communication Media**
- **Simulations**
- **Exercises**



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<http://carlisle-www.army.mil>

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QUESTIONS